

## **REMARKS**

The present amendment is prepared in accordance with the new revised requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. A complete listing of all the claims in the application is shown above showing the status of each claim. For current amendments, inserted material is underlined and deleted material has a line therethrough.

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 9-27 are allowed.

### **Claim Objections**

#### **Rejection Under 35 USC § 103**

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,428,925 to Snyder in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,493,118 to Braxton.

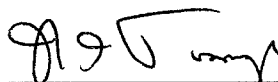
Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,428,925 to Snyder in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,749,182 to Vavrinak in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,174,989 to Lyons.

Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled and these rejections are now moot.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 5 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that the claims as they stood prior to amendment are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution and allowance of the claims. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these prior and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner not find the claims to be allowable, Applicants' attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned to clarify any issue and/or to place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John J. Tomaszewski', is written over a horizontal line.

John J. Tomaszewski  
Reg. No. 26,241

**DeLIO & PETERSON, LLC**  
121 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06510-1241  
(203) 787-0595